

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE 12/18/70

1. NAME

COMMON:

Chester

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Chester

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

.6 mi. E of Rt. 625, .2 mi. N of intersection with Rt. 35.

CITY OR TOWN:

(Homeville vic.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

45

COUNTY:

Sussex

CODE

183

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

- Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☒ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☒ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious Vacant
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Gary M. Williams

STREET AND NUMBER:

P.O. Box 74 Rt. 1, Box 60

CITY OR TOWN:

Jarratt, Waverly

STATE:

Virginia 23890

CODE

45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Sussex County Courthouse, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Sussex

STATE

Virginia

CODE

45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969

- ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

08

STATE: Virginia	COUNTY: Sussex	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chester is a massive, two-story frame house covered by a gable roof. Both the front and rear facades are three bays, with off-center doors reflecting the side hall plan. On the side of the house opposite the hall are two exterior chimney stacks, joined on both the first and second floor levels by pent closets. The major portion of this chimney structure is laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers. The center is pierced by a narrow 4-over-4 pane window on each level, and is supported by a semi-circular vault at ground level. At the first floor level there is an exterior door on either side of the chimney structure, and a window is on each side on the second floor level. The other side of the house features a two-story early-nineteenth-century wing with an exterior chimney and a shallow gable roof. Except for the wing, the exterior of Chester has been little altered and retains its original 9-over-9 sash, box cornice, and much old clapboarding.

Nearly all of the original woodwork survives on the interior. The principal first-floor room features a paneled chimney piece flanked by fluted pilasters set on pedestals. On either side of the chimney piece are doors, which like the mantel shelf, are topped by "dog eared" panels. The companion first-floor room also contains a paneled chimney piece flanked by fluted pilasters and doors.

Chester retains its rural setting, being surrounded by fields and woodlands. In the immediate vicinity of the house is an interesting plank outbuilding.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1773

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chester is believed to have been built in 1773, because one of the bricks in the chimneys is inscribed with this date. The first owner of the house, John Sledge, sold Chester in 1777 to Robert Parham. In 1783, it was bought by Captain Nathaniel Dunn, a member of the House of Delegates. Captain William Harrison purchased Chester in 1787, and his son, William, Jr., who inherited the property, added the wing in the 1820's. Chester remained in the Harrison family until 1871, and was purchased by a Harrison descendant in 1969.

Chester is architecturally significant for possessing one of the finest and most massive sets of coupled exterior stacks in Virginia. The joining of exterior stacks into a single structure through the use of a pent closet was a fairly common practice in the late eighteenth century, but connections between stacks on two levels, as at Chester, is much rarer. Those on Chester and Waterville (King William County) are thought to be the only colonial specimens of this architectural feature to survive in Virginia.

Chester further stands as a well-preserved example of a more prodigious Southside colonial farmhouse. Its value as an architectural document is enhanced by the survival of nearly all of its original interior woodwork. That, though handsomely embellished with architectural features, is somewhat provincial in design. Chester is currently undergoing renovation after passing through a period of neglect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stephenson, Mary A., Old Homes in Surry and Sussex. Richmond, 1942.
 Sussex County Deed Books and Will Books, Clerk's Office, Sussex County
 Court House, Sussex, Virginia.
 Sussex County Land Tax Books, Virginia State Library.
 W.P.A., Sussex County; A Tale of Three Centuries. Richmond, 1942.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 58' 18"	77° 10' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE
 June 26, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
 Richmond

STATE
 Virginia

CODE
 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name _____

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

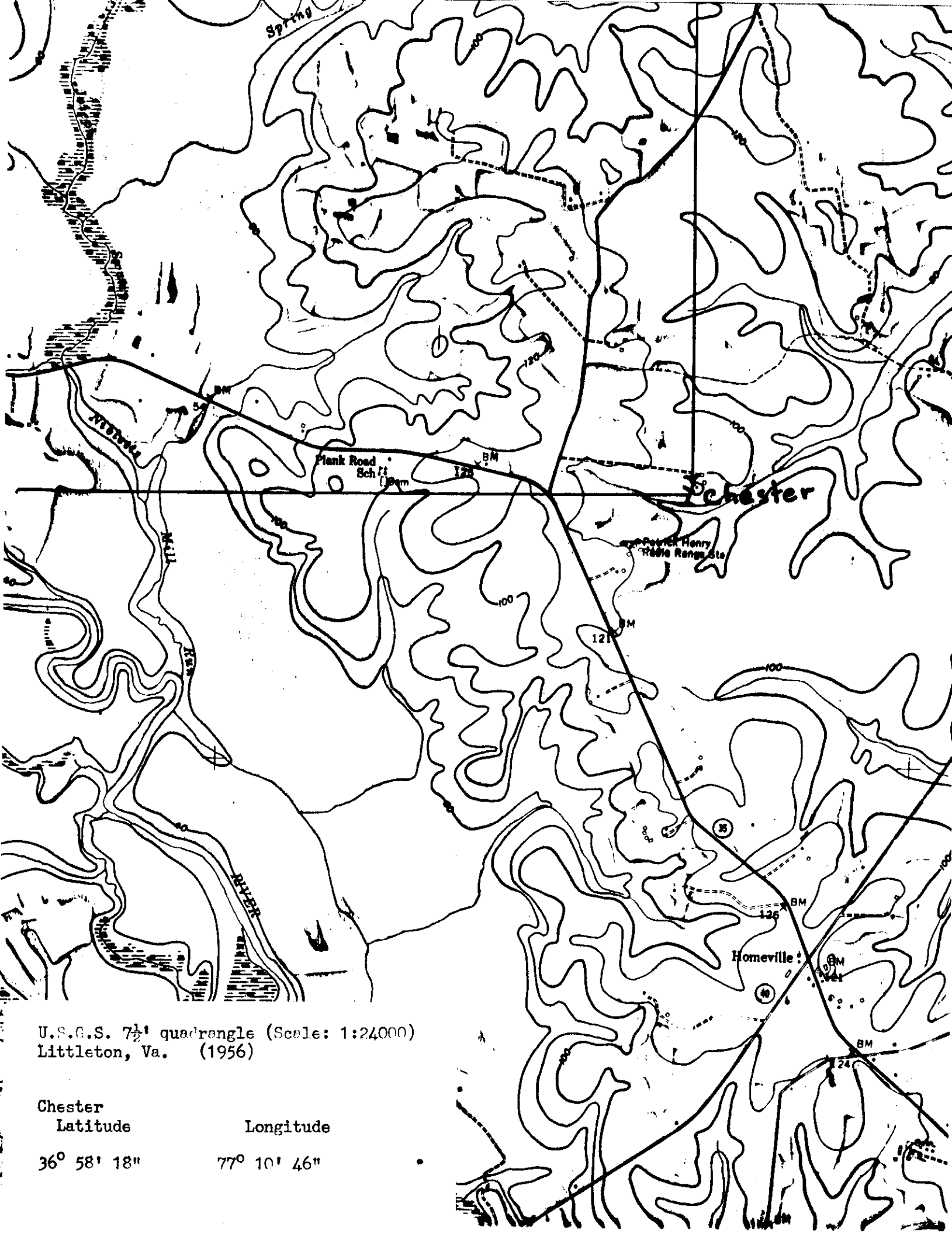
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
Littleton, Va. (1956)

Chester	
Latitude	Longitude
36° 58' 18"	77° 10' 46"